

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of Claims in the Application.

- 1.-15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.1:1.
17. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.3:1.
18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.7:1.
19. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 5:1.
20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 2.6:1.
21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 2.4:1.
22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the additional metal comprises calcium.
23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the additional metal comprises magnesium.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the compound additionally contains at least one of sulphate, chloride and oxide.
26. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43, in which the compound is obtained as precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts.
27. (Amended) The [[A]] method of as claimed in Claim 26 [[43]], wherein the in which the compound is obtained as the unaged precipitate is unaged from said solution of mixed metal salts.

28. (Amended) ~~The [[A]] method of as claimed in Claim 26 [[43]], wherein the in which the compound is obtained as the washed and unaged precipitate is washed and unaged from said solution of mixed metal salts.~~
- 29-42. (Cancelled)
43. (Previously presented) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a phosphate-binding, mixed metal compound which is free of aluminum and contains iron (III) and an additional metal M selected from the group comprising magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium.
44. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said compound has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, as measured by any of the following methods (1) or (2), over a pH range of 3 to 7.
- (1) adding 1 gram of said mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 40 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced;
 - (2) adding 1 gram of said mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 20 mmol l⁻¹ sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 µm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced.
45. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said metal compound contains hydroxyl and/or carbonate ions.
46. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said compound has a hydrotalcite type structure.
47. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 44 in which said compound has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight of the total weight of phosphate present as measured by method (1) or by method (2) over a pH range of 2 to 8.
- 48-63. (Cancelled)